

Remarks/Arguments:

With the present response, claims 23-28 are pending. The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claims 23-28 are allowed.

Claim rejections

Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 30 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Claim 30 has been canceled, rendering the rejection of claim 30 moot. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 30.

Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-16, 22, and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,769,830 to Parker ("Parker"). Claims 1-16, 22, and 31 have been canceled, rendering the rejection of these claims moot. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-16, 22, and 31.

Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Parker in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,019,057 to Truckai ("Truckai"). Claims 18-20 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Parker. Claim 30 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Parker in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,886,062 to Wiktor ("Wiktor"). Claims 17-20 and 29-30 have been canceled, rendering the rejection of these claims moot. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 17-20 and 29-30.

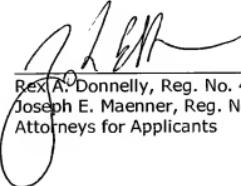
Double Patenting rejections

Claims 1, 5, 6, 9, and 22 stand rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as unpatentable over claims 1, 2, 6, 10, and 22 of U.S. Patent No. 6,325,822. Claims 21 and 22 stand rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as unpatentable over claims 2 and 19 of U.S. Patent No. 6,685,738. Claims 1, 5, 6, 9, 21, and 22 have been canceled, rendering the rejection of these claims moot. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 5, 6, 9, 21, and 22.

Conclusion

In light of the above amendments, arguments, and terminal disclaimers, Applicants hereby submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Prompt reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Rex A. Donnelly, Reg. No. 41,712
Joseph E. Maenner, Reg. No. 41,964
Attorneys for Applicants

RAD/JEM/

Dated: May 16, 2008

P.O. Box 980
Valley Forge, PA 19482
(610) 407-0700

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